



CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT REVOTE

THE AMENDMENT PROCESS

- ✘ General Conference proposes amendments to the UM Constitution
- ✘ All Annual Conferences vote on the amendments
- ✘ Amendments that achieve an aggregate of 66.6% votes to adopt are approved.
- ✘ Amendments that achieve less than 66.6% of aggregate votes, fail.

THE FIVE AMENDMENTS: GC2016

- ✘ Amendment I (66.5%, failed): Proposed a new paragraph between current ¶5 and ¶ 6 of the *Book of Discipline (BOD)*, focused on gender justice.
- ✘ Amendment II (61.3%, failed): Proposed changes to the wording in ¶4 of the *BOD* that would have added “gender,” “ability,” “age” and “marital status” to protected membership groups.
- ✘ Amendment III (90.3%, approved): Deals with the election of delegates to the General Conference as contained in ¶34 of the *BOD*.
- ✘ Amendment IV (92.9% approved): Clarifies the time of election of bishops in Central Conferences as contained in ¶46 of the *BOD*.
- ✘ Amendment V (81.2%, approved): Adds language to ¶50 of the *BOD* regarding how the Council of Bishops holds its individual members accountable for their work.

AMENDMENT I: WORDING ERROR

- ✘ May 10, 2018, Rev. Gary Graves, Secretary of General Conference, announced that Amendment I as submitted to Annual Conferences included language that was removed by General Conference.
- ✘ Graves and the former Secretary of GC apologized for the error.

LANGUAGE REMOVED

- ✘ The sentence that should not have been included reads as follows:

"The United Methodist Church recognizes it is contrary to Scripture and to logic to say that God is male or female, as maleness and femaleness are characteristics of human bodies and cultures, not characteristics of the divine."

APPROVED LANGUAGE

“As the Holy Scripture reveals, both men and women are made in the image of God and, therefore, men and women are of equal value in the eyes of God. The United Methodist Church acknowledges the long history of discrimination against women and girls. The United Methodist Church shall confront and seek to eliminate discrimination against women and girls, whether in organizations or in individuals, in every facet of its life and in society at large. The United Methodist Church shall work collaboratively with others to address concerns that threaten women’s and girl's equality and well-being.”

NEXT STEP

- ✘ All Annual Conferences will vote again on this one amendment, with the correct wording.
- ✘ The Wisconsin Annual Conference will vote on this amendment during the June 15-17 Annual Conference.
- ✘ This will be an Action Item for the 2018 AC, which will be distributed at AC.
- ✘ Further details are pending.